

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government consider the disinvestment proposals in various companies from time to time. At present in the following 17 cases the disinvestment has been cleared and the "Advisor" have been appointed: Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd., Indian petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., RBL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Bharat Leather Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Jessop & Co. Ltd. In two cases disinvestment has been cleared but advisors are yet to be appointed. These are: Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. & MSTC Ltd.

The process of disinvestment is in different stages of implementation in these companies.

(c) and (d) The sale of shares of a PSU is done on the basis of value arrived at by a bidding process. To ensure that the bidding process obtains the best value, Government gets share valuations done by following different methods. In the only case of sale by strategic sale, the Government did get assets valuation done. Assets will be got valued on a case to case basis whenever required.

Disinvestment Target

†*3. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had fixed any target in respect of disinvestment;
- (b) if so, has it been achieved;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when this target is expected to be achieved?

† Starred Question Nos. 1, 3 and 8 were taken together.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) For the current Financial Year a target of Rs. 10,000 crore has been fixed from disinvestment.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) The target is for the entire year which will end on 31.3.2001.

Appoint a Statutory Authority to Determine the Real Value of Public Sector Assets of profit Making Public Sector Units

†*8. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to appoint a statutory authority to determine the real value of public sector assets of profit making public sector units before being sold to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government will ensure whether it is getting the right price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The shares of a PSU are disinvested by a bidding process. The best price is determined by the market forces. However, the Government values shares by different methods to ensure that the sale process fetches the best value. Whenever necessary even the assets will be valued on a case to case basis.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, through you, I would, at the very outset, like to express my anguish over the reply that has been given by the Minister because the statement is a total affront to the Parliamentary system itself. Our

† Starred Question Nos. 1, 3 and 8 were taken together.